



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION DAY

- WHEREAS: Substance abuse is the harmful use of illicit drugs or alcohol; and
- WHEREAS: Substance abuse is widespread and growing in intensity. This epidemic affects not only users, but also strains families and undermines the community at large; and
- WHEREAS: Substance abuse impacts all communities and may affect any individual, regardless of age, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status; and
- WHEREAS: According to the Centers for Disease Control, alcohol abuse by those under the age of 21 is now considered a major public health concern, and underage drinking is more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined; and
- WHEREAS: Research conducted by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence demonstrates a link between underage drinking and behavioral problems, including academic failure, violence, suicide, traffic fatalities, and alcohol overdose, among others; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Georgia recognizes organizations such as Voices for Prevention Georgia and the Association of Village Pride that are dedicated to raising awareness of the harmful consequences of substance abuse and providing support to those impacted by this epidemic; and
- WHEREAS: By confronting this epidemic on the state and local levels, we can better protect our communities from substance abuse and help those who are addicted recover and reclaim their lives; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 21, 2018, as SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*  
CHIEF OF STAFF